Financial assistance to Sagardighi and Durgapur Power Projects

3096. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is extending any financial assistance to the new power projects, namely, Sagardighi Power Project and Durgapur Power Project in West Bengal;

(b) whether it is a fact that these projects are being awarded to a Chinese firm ignoring the claim of BHEL: and

(c) if so, what is the foreign exchange component involved in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) No financial assistance is provided by Ministry of Power for setting up of new power projects.

(b) West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCL), which is implementing Sagardighi Power Projects (2x300 MW) and Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL), which is implementing Durgapur Power Project (1x300 MW), have awarded the contracts for supply, erection of main plant & equipment on M/s Don Fang Electric Corporation, China through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has also participated in the tender which could not complete in the international competitive bidding.

(c) In case of Sagardighi Power Project (2x300 MW) and Durgapur Power Projects (1x300 MW), the foreign component involved are US $ 238.3 Million and US $ 124.73 Million respectively.

Unbundling of SEBs

3097. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to extend the deadline by six months for unbundling of 11 State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked the State Governments to deal sternly with cases of power theft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Section 172 (a) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Government may, by notification, authorize the State Electricity Board (SEB) to continue to function as the State Transmission Utility or a licensee for such further-period beyond the period of one year of the provisions of the Act coming into force, as may be mutually decided by the Central Government and the State Government.

Nine States are yet to reorganize their SEBs. These States have, from time to time, sent proposals to the Central Government for extension of time for the reorganization of their respective SEBs. Besides this, Assam and Madhya Pradesh also requested for continuation of their respective SEBs only for trading purpose. Details of the time period agreed to by the Central Government for these States is given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Electricity Act, 2003 has stringent provisions to check theft of electricity. The National Electricity Policy states that the States and distribution utilities should ensure effective implementation of these provisions of the Act and set up Special Courts. It lays emphasis on implementation of modern information technology systems by the utilities on a priority basis, after considering cost and benefits, to facilitate creation of network information and customer data base which will *inter-alia,* help in detection of theft and tampering. High Voltage Distribution System has also been envisaged in the policy as an effective method for prevention of theft as well as reduction of technical losses, improved voltage profile and better consumer service.

The Electricity Rules, 2005 prescribe the procedure for investigation of congnizable offences related to theft of electricity by the Police. The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2005 issued by Central Government under section 183 of the Act provides that the Electricity Supply Code as specified by the SERCs under section 50 of the Act shall also include method of assessment of electricity charges and disconnection of supply in cases of theft of electricity pending adjudication by the appropriate court.

Statement

Status of extension agreed to by Central Government for reorganisation of SEBs

SI. No.	Name of State	Dt. upto which extn. agreed to by Central Government	Remarks
1	Kerala	09.12.2005	
2	Punjab	09.12.2005	
3	Chhattisgarh	09.12.2005	
4	Bihar	09.9.2005	
5	Madhya Pradesh	09.12.2005	Extension only for continuance of trading function by SEB.
6	Tamil Nadu	09.12.2005	
7	Meghalaya	09.12.2005	
8	Himachal Pradesh	09.12.2005	
9	West Bengal	09.12.2005	
10	Jharkhand	09.12.2005	
11	Assam	09.12.2005	Extension only for continuance of trading function by SEB.

Potential of Hydel Power in Kerala

3098. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Hydel Power potential in the State of Kerala;

(b) what percentage of it has been tapped;

(c) whether Government have plans to tap the remaining potential; and*

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) As per the re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of the country completed by Central Electricity Authority, the total assessed hydel power potential in the State of Kerala is equivalent to installed capacity of 3514MW.